# INING MOMENTS

*Vol 4. Issue 2 Oct - Dec 2024* 

THE SOCIETY ISSUE

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# HSL'S FIRST HIGH-RISE LIVING

#### DEBATING ACES

Sponsoring Swinburne's Brightest

## JURORS FOR COMPETITION

**AIR** Masterplan's Judges Jigsaw, Find Your Fit — S, M, L, XL THIRD TIME'S **A CHARM** Oktoberfest 2024 Is Our Best Yet **ABSTRACT PERFECTION** 

# EDITOR'S

Dear readers,

Welcome to the Society Issue, where we highlight Hock Seng Lee's (HSL) commitment to social outreach and inclusive development.

We begin by announcing our sponsorships for Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak. For years, we've sponsored awards for university's top engineering students, a field in which HSL excels. These students not only receive prizes but also benefit from personal consultations with our Executive Director, Simon Lau, the visionary behind some of the region's most successful engineering projects.

At HSL, we believe in giving back through our expertise, not just monetary donations.

This principle extends to our support for education. We are proud to announce that we are also sponsoring Swinburne's English Debating Championships, reflecting our culture of using English as the primary medium of communication at work.

English is a valuable tool, and we are committed to fostering its learning among Sarawak's brightest young minds. At HSL, English is the common language for internal discussions, government correspondence, and client interactions, preventing miscommunication and ensuring clarity across diverse projects and specialties.

Our writer, Rochester Bagol Nicholas Nyalau, who was an English tutor before joining HSL, covers Swinburne's debating championships in this issue. Read his unique perspective and the outcomes of the debates.

We are also pleased to announce our continued support for charities within La Promenade Mall.

Although the mall being 80% occupied, we reaffirm our commitment to the charities we invited when the mall opened in 2021. These include "The Learning Hub" by Hope Place, Sarawak AIDS Concern Society, Penan Helping Hands, Sarawak Women for Women Society, and Kuching Apple Talent Development and Welfare of Special Needs Club.

We have renewed their free rental contracts and will upgrade their premises. Follow their social media for updates on any relocations around the mall.

In this issue, you'll also find updates on the AIR Master Plan Design Competition. This is our second national architecture competition, following Langit in 2021.

We have confirmed our seven-member juror panel and, as of press time, have 127 registered participants. Remarkably, 80% of participants are from outside Sarawak, promising an innovative master plan for the project, which we will build post-competition, similar to the upcoming Langit Citadines Kuching, a collaboration between Singapore's Ascott and HSI.

Our goal with these competitions is to be a professional-led developer, promoting transparency, meritocracy, and public involvement. Read about our efforts to provide equal opportunities for architects in this competition.

Lastly, we congratulate David Chew on the success of his second solo show at Hoan Gallery, which generated great interests among enthusiasts. Unlike usual art shows in east Malaysia, which depict realism, Chew's show is all about abstract art. The show, the third in 2024 for Hoan Gallery, is something new and refreshing.

Enjoy our Society Issue, and join us in making a better place for all.

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# BE THE STAR







a Promenade's Oktoberfest returned for its third year, expanded in partnership with What About Kuching (WAK), drawing thousands of visitors with unforgettable music, food, and festivities.

This year's celebration, Oktoberfest increased its footprint by 50%, featuring a revamped layout, additional seating, and a wider variety of food and beverage options.

The event was a massive hit, drawing large crowds eager to partake in live entertainment, culinary delights, and

exclusive property showcases.

The event featured nightly performances from some of the region's top bands, including returning favourites Mozaik, On Strings, Time Signature and more.

The opening night was a spectacle, with Mozaik setting the tone for a month of dancing and revelry.

"This will be our third year performing here at La Promenade's Oktoberfest, and it's always a highlight for us, the crowds there are just wonderful," said Dell Lawrence, the lead vocalist.

"The atmosphere, the setup — everything comes together to create an unforgettable experience."

"The success of live music depends on the environment, from the sound system to the lighting. At La Promenade's Oktoberfest, it's more than just a party — it's a celebration of community," added Alex Ang, the drummer.

"There's no one-size-fits-all approach to audio. Every band has unique needs, and we tailor our setup accordingly," La Promenade's event coordinator Stephen Sunny said.

"That's why we work with a skilled audio engineer, Emily Voong, who fine-tunes the sound quality each night. She and we take pride in delivering an exceptional auditory experience."

After-parties hosted by top drink vendors extended the fun into the night, offering guests more reasons to stay and enjoy the festivities long after the main stage had closed. **1. ELECTRIFYING:** Mozaik shaking the stage with a high-energy performance at Oktoberfest.

**2. COLD BEER:** Oktoberfest was a blast with great drinks, lively music, and amazing dishes from our in-house tenants.

**3. SAFE:** A joyful moment captured as a child dancing hand-in-hand with a loved one.

**4. ENERGETIC:** The crowd singing the night away to lively tunes at Oktoberfest.

6 LIVING MOMENTS



**5. MOUTHWATERING:** Delicious dishes from over two dozen food vendors—tempting and irresistible.

**6. FESTIVE:** A vendor skilfully preparing satay skewers, showcasing the vibrant flavours of local food.

**7. LIVELY:** A packed house at La Promenade's Oktoberfest—every table filled with laughter and fun.

Food lovers had plenty to savour, with over two dozen vendors offering a wide selection of both local and international cuisine.

Iced Bar, one of La Promenade's newest tenants, also added to the festivities by offering exclusive cocktails, including a unique range of gin and tonics crafted just for Oktoberfest.

The HSL property team used the festival as a platform to introduce their latest developments.

Guests were treated to guided tours of La Promenade, including the new Precinct Grande, where HSL's first threestory homes were nearing completion.

Scenic buggy rides offered attendees a glimpse into the luxurious lifestyle available at the gated residences.

Additionally, the event showcased the "Jigsaw" condominium project and the upcoming phases of the Vista Industrial Park.

"Oktoberfest offers a relaxed environment to connect with potential homebuyers and showcase the best of what we have to offer," sales and marketing assistant manager Angie Joan Daniel said.

La Promenade's Oktoberfest prioritised both fun and safety, with enhanced security measures and an improved cleaning team. Charles Lee, HSL's security manager, recalled the festival's growth since its inception.

"We've expanded each year, and this time, we've gone the extra mile to ensure it's a family-friendly, safe, and enjoyable event for everyone," Lee said.

For more information, follow @LaPromenadeMall or #LaPromenadeMall on social media, or visit lapromenademall.com.

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## Find Unique Treasures At La Promenade Mall Weekend Bazaar

Hidden Gems By Local Artisans and Young Entrepreneurs

hrowback to a weekend of excitement at La Promenade Mall's Weekend Bazaar. This lively event showcased a variety of local shops that offered everything from trendy fashion and handmade crafts to tasty snacks from around the world.

> Whether shoppers were looking to shop for themselves, find a special gift, or simply enjoy the vibrant atmosphere, the bazaar was the perfect place to explore and discover hidden gems.

It was a day of unique shopping experiences.



#### **KPOP MART** / A Fan's Dream



#### **AME BOUTIQUE** / Fashion And Beauty In One Place

Visit Nail Story & Ame Boutique for a fun mix of clothes and nail accessories! You can shop for stylish outfits and find great spot to pamper yourself and update your wardrobe at the same time.

#### **HWA HANDICRAFT** / Beautiful Crochet Items

If you're looking for special gifts or unique decorations, check out Hwa Handicraft. This shop features lovely crochet items, each made with care. From cosy accessories to charming home decorations, you're sure to find something that adds a personal touch to your home.



#### **GLOBAL**

MUNCHIES / Tasty Treats From Around The World For those who enjoy trying new snacks, Global Munchies is countries that will tickle your taste buds. Plus, you can find a great selection of Gundam toys and other fun items that are perfect for collectors.

#### THE TALKING SEA / Handmade Jewellery

Add some sparkle to your outfit with beautiful jewellery from The Talking Sea. Each piece is handmade and inspired by nature, making them unique and special. Support local artisans while finding a beautiful accessory just for you!

#### ICY CRYSTALZ / Shine With Style

For those who love fashion and sustainability, Icy Crystalz is the place to go. This shop offers stunning handmade jewellery and second-hand clothes that are stylish and eco-friendly. You'll find something special that not only looks good but is also kind to the planet.



At Michelle & Co, you can find fashionable clothes and accessories for any occasion. Whether you need a new outfit for work or a night out, this shop has the latest styles that will keep you looking great.

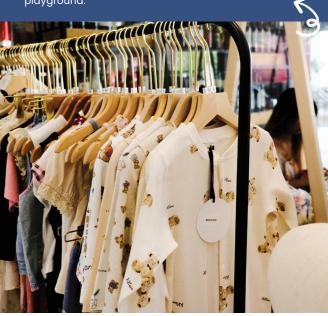


#### **DOVELLE'S CLOSET** / Stylish Clothing Options

Dovelle's Closet is full of chic clothing choices for anyone who loves to dress well. With a variety of styles that combine comfort and fashion, you're sure to find something that fits your taste perfectly.

#### **TINY.CO** / Adorable Kids' Clothing

Don't forget about the little ones! Tiny.co specialises in cute kids' clothing that is both stylish and comfortable. You can find trendy outfits that your kids will love to wear, making them the stars of the



La Promenade Mall is excited to announce the upcoming Youth and Christmas Bazaar, which will run from November 29 to December 22.

This Youth and Christmas Bazaar is not just an event-it's an experience filled with holiday cheer, creativity, and global flavours.

Whether you're hunting for the perfect gift or simply enjoying the festive atmosphere, La Promenade Mall's Youth and Christmas Bazaar offers something special for everyone, see you there!





## Hoan Gallery Staged Third Solo Show Of The Year

APPRECIATION: Tourism, Creative Industry and Performing Arts Deputy Minister Datuk Sebastian opening of the exhibition.

Featuring Contemporary Abstract Artist David Chew

oan Gallery presented its 2024 third solo exhibition, showcasing the work of pioneering abstract artist David Chew. at La Promenade Mall.

The gallery collaborated with academics from Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Unimas) to introduce interactive elements to Chew's exhibition, titled "Come Into Your Own."

Over 40 pieces were displayed, highlighting Chew, 50, as one of the region's most prominent artists.

Chew, who embarked on his artistic journey at the age of 11, studied under the late Chong Liew Syn, mastering traditional techniques such as watercolour and oil painting. His passion for abstract art developed later in life, and his artistic progression mirrored the evolution of art in the 20th and 21st centuries.

Hoan Gallery's director, Hoan Kee Huang, described the exhibition as "something completely different" and "a boon for the local art scene". He said, "Come Into Your Own" celebrated the richness of local talent, diversity, and innovative thinking.

"This marked a departure from typical art exhibitions in Sarawak, which tended to focus on realism. Chew's work emerged from modern art, with colours, lines, and shapes not intended to represent objects or living things," Hoan

Chew described his art as "internalised" and "liberating".

"My work reflected the values I held dear. As I grew older, I internalised my experiences and lessons. My move into abstract art stemmed from a desire to make the invisible, visible. I didn't just want to depict objects or the surface, so

Continues on Pg. 15



#### **◆** Awakening of The Dragon 《龙的觉醒》,2019

Acrylic on canvas 91 x 122 cm RM7,200

A silent period does not mean the momentum has stopped, when the passion is still there and the vision is still clear, the awakening of the dragon, will return with more energy.

沉寂的时期并不意味着势头已停下,当激情依然存在,愿 景依然清晰时,沉睡的巨龙将以更强大的力量觉醒归来。

#### Movement-I 《动-1》,2024

Acrylic on canvas 60 x 90 cm RM3,600

This piece revisits the essence of action painting, where every brushstroke and motion flows from my intuition in the moment. This approach, sparked by a chat about human versus digital (AI) artistry, makes me believe that as a human artist, I bring

a unique sense of movement to my pieces. You can feel the warmth of my hands in the flowing lines and energetic strokes, each one a reflection of the human touch.

在这幅作品中,我再一次探索行动绘画 (action painting)的本质,每一笔每 一动都源于我当下的直觉。当时,我和 同行画家探讨了人类与数字(AI)艺术 创作的关系,受到启发,我便创造了一 系列名为《动》的作品。我相信,作为 人类艺术家,我可以为作品注入一种独 特的动感。你可以在流畅的线条和充满 活力的笔触中感受到我手中的温度,每 一笔都带着人类的触感。







"When I began exploring abstract art, I found it liberating you can draw and paint as you felt. The late Raphael Scott Ahbeng is one of my inspirations.

"As a father to a young son, I painted with positivity in mind. A lot had happened in recent years, such as Covid, and I believed it was important to create art that inspired joy," Chew shared.

Come Into Your Own featured works spanning nearly 30 years, including transitional pieces from 2006 (prior to his shift into full abstraction), with most works completed over the past decade.

The exhibition showcased three collaborative pieces created with his son.

"In 2020, while working in my home studio, my son-who is now seven-became increasingly engaged with art. He joined me in creating three pieces for this exhibition. The process of working together, which I referred to as 'the conversation'; it was an exchange between us, but not just through language," said Chew.

A significant collaborator for the exhibition was Dr Nana Zheng from the Faculty of Applied and Creative Arts at Unimas. Interactive elements included the "Hidden Series", an audio-visual experience where visitors can scan QR codes to enjoy music paired with Chew's artwork.

Another section invited visitors to name artworks, while a contemplative corner encouraged them to write letters for others to read and take away.





**REFLEXTIVITY:** A special exhibition section where guests can write letters to loved ones or their future selves.

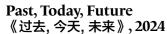
**INSPIRATION:** A young artist immersing in creativity, bringing vibrant colours to life on the canvas.

"Chew's exhibition is going to astonish people. Kuching hasn't seen an abstract show of this calibre before. This is the gallery's most contemporary show to date, and I believe visitors are in for a remarkable experience," said Hoan.

Entry to the gallery is free and open daily. All artworks are available for purchase.

For further information, visit hoangallery. com or follow @HoanArtGallery.

Updates are also available at lapromenademall.com.my and on social media at @LaPromenadeMall.



Acrylic on canvas 213.5 x 511cm RM70,000

The past is gone, whether it was filled with successes or failures. All that remains are the experiences, which fade into the distance and become less clear over time.

What is certain, however, is today—the present moment. The person we are today is the sum of all our past experiences and events.

The future is uncertain, a realm of possibilities that awaits us. It is shaped by the steps we take today, as we explore, learn, and grow. It is our responsibility to pass on our wisdom to the next generation, with the hope that they will build upon it, creating a better life and a better world.

过去已成过去,无论成功还是失败。剩下的只有经 历,随着时间的流逝而逐渐暗淡,成为遥远的记忆。

然而,今天——此刻的现在——还在眼前。我们今天 的样子,是所有过去经历和事件的总和。

未来不可预估,只有可能无数。我们探索、学习和成 长,一步一步塑造自己的未来。我们有责任将智慧传 给下一代,以创造更美好的生活和更理想的世界。







**ART SHOW WEBSITE** Scan to Visit

**EXPRESSION:** David Chew in the zone, pouring passion and energy into a large-scale abstract creation

#### Q/So, David, tell us a little bit about your art. When did you start?

A/I started doing art at a very young age. Like many kids, my parents sent me to art classes. Eventually, I enrolled in the Sarawak Fine Art School, where I learned painting under the late Chong Liew Syn. That provided me with a strong foundation, as I practised landscapes, still life, human figures, and more. My style has always leaned toward impressionism.

#### Q/Do you remember how old you were when you joined the Sarawak Fine Art School? Around 11?

A/ Yes, I was in Primary 5, so I was about 11 years old.

#### 2/ What age did your kids start painting?

A/ Hahaha, my kids started painting when my son was about three years old. Of course, he had the opportunity to see me paint at home, especially during the pandemic. He even helped me out a bit.

#### 2. How did he help you with your art?

 $A\!\!\!/\!\!$  Well, he just enjoyed doing whatever came to mind. From my perspective, it was interesting to see how kids approach art. They create without judgement-something we lose as adults. It made me reflect on how creativity flows naturally when there's no judgement

#### 2. Going back to your experiences at the Fine Art School, what initially hooked you? Was it the classes or something

A/It wasn't really about friends, to be honest. I wasn't socialising much during class. I'd go in, do my work, and leave. But once I started

working on my art, I became so immersed that I thoroughly enjoyed it.

#### 2/ What was your favourite subject in secondary school?

A/I didn't take art as a subject in secondary school. I was on the Science track, and actually, Science was the subject that interested me the most.

#### 2/ How did your fascination with art begin? Through movies or books?

A/ Movies, I would say. I remember my dad taking me to watch Star Wars when I was young. That left a big impression on me.

#### 2. Other than Star Wars?

 $A\!\!/\!$  Back then, we didn't have Iron Man or modern superheroes. It was mostly Superman or Batman.

#### 2./ When you first joined the Sarawak Artists Society, whose work inspired you?

 $A\!\!\!/$  The late Chong Liew Syn, of course. He invited us to his studio when it was still located in Satok, I admired his semi-abstract works. I also found inspiration from others, like Jackson Pollock. Watching a film about Pollock influenced me to explore non-objective painting.

#### 2. Did you watch that film with your artist friends?

 $\overline{A}$  No, I watched it alone. It's hard to remember how I got the film, but I think it was a DVD. It gave me a lot to think about, and I wanted to try something similar. When I finally did, it felt so liberating, though there was always that voice in my head questioning whether people would accept it.



#### Continuum 《延续》,2022

Acrylic on canvas 92 x 122 cm RM7,200

This creation was a dialogue between father and son: the five-year-old expressed freely with colours in motion, while the father responded to complete the piece. It reflected a connection between generations, a deep exchange of feelings, and a passing down of wisdom to sustain for years to come.

这幅作品是父与子的对话: 五岁的孩子通过流动的色彩自由表达,而父亲则通过回应他的表达完成这幅画。它象征我们之间的精神纽带,以及代代相承的智慧和情感。

#### SOLD

#### Rekindled Flame 《重生的火焰》, 2023

Acrylic on canvas 61 x 91 cm RM3,600 Explore your inner world, feel the inner flame and hope of life. Living means being vibrant and passionate in every moment. When you fall, it takes passion and strength to rise again, just as life is reborn.

请探索内心世界,感受内在的火焰和生 命的希望,活着就应该每一个瞬间都充 满活力与热情。跌倒了,爬起来需要激 情和力量,生命重生不就也是如此。



# Range has

#### ◆ Unconditional Love 《大爱》, 2023

Acrylic on canvas 92 x 122 cm RM7,200

Love, as the most powerful force in life, transcends all temporal and spatial boundaries, be it affection for family, care for friends, devotion to society, or reverence for all living beings. In my emotional palette, love is blended from soft hues of red, yellow, and orange.

无论何时何地,爱都是生命中最强大的力量,不论是对家庭的热爱,对朋友的关心,对社会的奉献,还是对生命的敬畏。在我的情绪色谱里,爱是由柔和的红、黄、橙交织和融合而成。

#### 2/ When and where was your first abstract show?

 $A\!\!\!/$  That was in 2002. I initiated a show with Norman Choo and Magdalene Tai, and it was significant because, before that, there had never been a purely abstract exhibition in Kuching. It made an impact—people had mixed reactions, but even the critical comments were valuable.

#### 2/After the abstract show, did it give you more confidence, knowing how society reacted?

 $A/{\rm Yes}$ , it did. But my perspective was different because I had a full-time job, so I didn't need to worry about whether the artwork sold. I could just focus on doing what I loved. However, there were people, even my family, who questioned whether it was worth doing if it wouldn't sell. That pushed me to dig deeper into the history of abstract art and understand how people appreciate it.

#### Q/I read your brochure recently, and you talk a lot about values. Can you explain that a bit more?

 $A\!\!/$  Sure. Abstract art and philosophy are closely linked. Techniques we use in business, leadership, or even art come from core values and philosophies. For example, corporate culture stems from fundamental beliefs. Similarly, in art, we can use these values to shape lines, colours, and textures in a meaningful way.

#### 2/Do you have an image in mind when you start creating, or do you find it as you go?

 $A\!\!\!/$  That's a great question. It can be both. Sometimes, conversations trigger images in my mind, and I translate

those onto the canvas. Other times, I'll be scribbling while talking on the phone, and those doodles can inspire something later. It's a mix of planning and spontaneity.

#### Q/This is your third solo show, right? What was the gap between your first and second shows?

 $A\!\!\!/$  The gap between my second and third shows was 10 years.

#### 2/How has your artwork changed in those 10 years?

 $A\!\!\!/$  The main thing is the colour palette—it has evolved. Over time, I've become more focused on conveying positive messages through my art. In the past, I expressed both positive and negative emotions, but now I'm more intentional about projecting positivity. It influences me and my surroundings in a meaningful way.

### Q/How old is your son now, and how has becoming a father changed your art?

 $A^{\prime}$  He's seven years old now. Being a father has definitely influenced my work. I've started thinking more about the environment and the legacy we leave behind. That's why you'll see themes of sustainability and environmental awareness in my recent work. I want to nurture the next generation, and part of that is ensuring they have a healthy world to live in.





**GUIDANCE:** A moment of connection: Teaching the next generation with care and patience.

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ARTIST INTERVIEW Scan to Watch



# **HSL Launches** Jigsaw Condos

Find Your Fit S, M, L, XL

**igsaw** – S, M,  $L \otimes XL$  is Hock Seng Lee's (HSL) first condominium project. We aim to bring the luxury of La Promenade to a wider market.

Jigsaw sits on a 1.4-acre piece of land that's nearly rectangular. This allowsfor a long, linear building design, providing ample space for ground-floor amenities and landscaping.

Every unit in Jigsaw is a corner unit, a unique and purposeful design by Nicholas Ling, a partner at Konzepte Asia in Kuala Lumpur.

"My team and I took great care to prioritise privacy at Jigsaw. We aimed to provide thoughtful layouts and optimised living spaces for everyone.

"I'm pleased that the original concept Lateral proposed has been carried through into the final product. HSL is a forward-thinking and openminded developer," said Ling.

Other design considerations include minimising direct sunlight exposure and incorporating double-glazed glass for enhanced tranquillity.

Living here means peace of mind.



#### A LUXURIOUS ENTRANCE STATEMENT

HSL's ambition to bring La Promenade's luxury to a high-rise begins at ground level. Unlike many other apartments, Jigsaw's ground floor is mostly free of vehicles, with parking provided in the basement.

The absence of cars on the ground floor creates a sense of arrival akin to entering a hotel, rather than a congested commercial space.

This freed-up space accommodates two entrance lobbies, five lifts, and common areas that seamlessly blend into the surrounding gardens.

Jigsaw's architecture — where every unit is a corner unit — also a striking visual feature from the ground floor.

#### **POCKET** GREENS WHEREVER POSSIBLE

We believe trees and plants bring life to any home. That's why we're creating green spaces throughout Jigsaw, just like we did at La Promenade.

As the saying goes, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now." We couldn't agree more.





#### LONG AND ENDLESS POOL DAYS

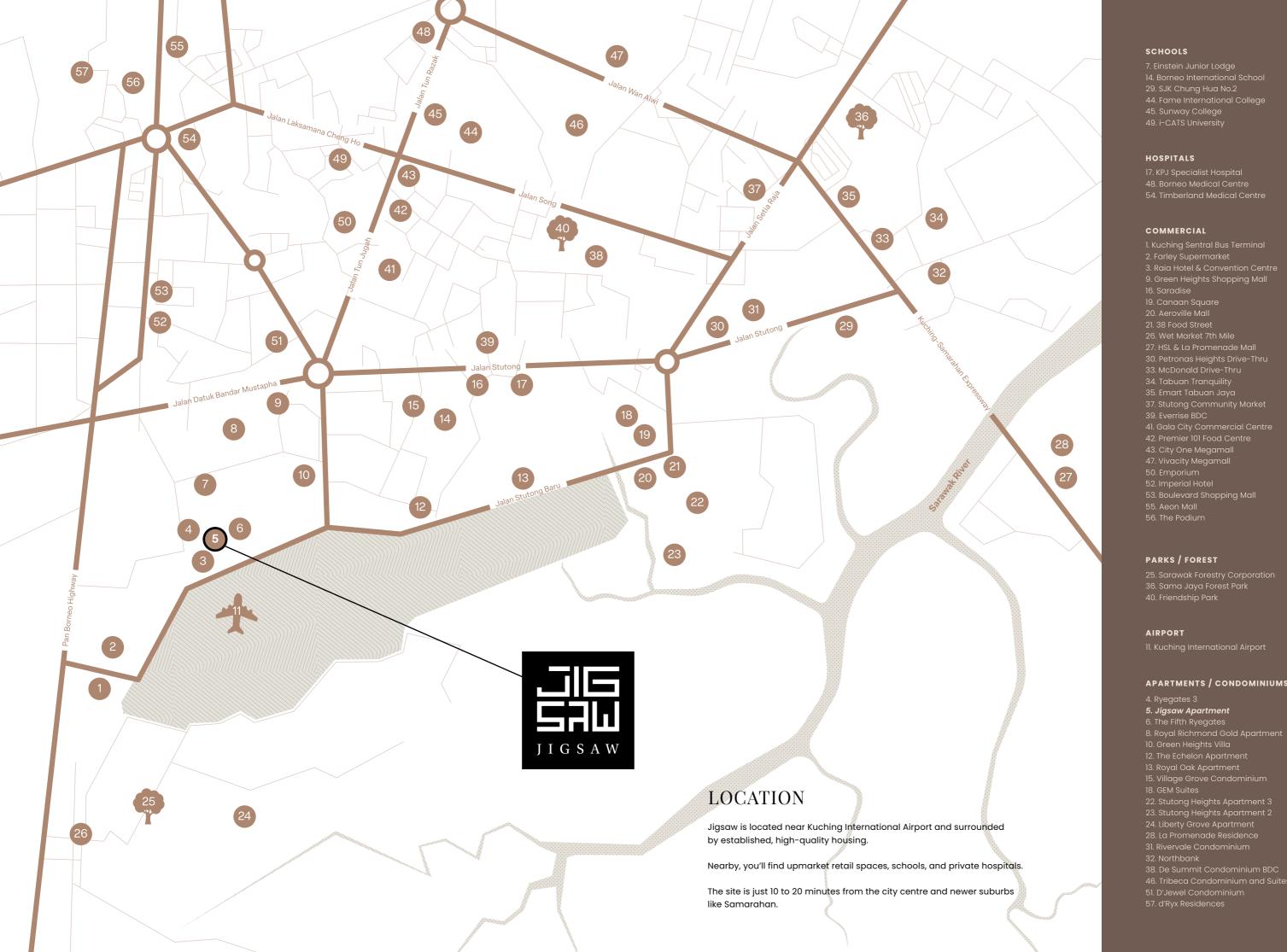
At the heart of Jigsaw's amenities is a half-Olympicsize saltwater pool, surrounded by spacious decks, greenery, and BBQ spots.

A children's pool and gym overlook the main pool, offering picturesque views.

Whether you prefer cardio or yoga, our facilities are designed to support both physical and mental well-being.







#### APARTMENTS / CONDOMINIUMS

#### 1-Bedroom + 1-Bathroom





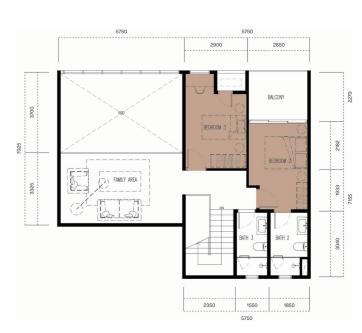




#### 4-Bedroom + 4-Bathroom + Family Area







UPPER FLOOR

#### 3-Bedroom + 3-Bathroom + Study





#### From Pg. 23

HSL has a longstanding collaborative relationship with the master interior designers at IDC Architects.

IDC's fit-outs for Jigsaw units feature carefully coordinated colour schemes, optimised layouts, and custom-built joinery.

Choose from our Basic+, Standard, or Designer packages.

Designer offers nearly fully furnished units, including a memory foam mattress, sofa, Samsung TV, and more. These are magazine-ready homes.

Jigsaw is a uniquely designed building, catering to all your needs and desires.

Jigsaw comprises 117 units, with approximately 60% consisting of three-bedroom units.



All units are designed with cosiness and practicality in mind. For example, studio units feature sliding doors for flexible space usage.

XL-sized double-storey penthouses on levels 9 and 10 offer the luxury of space, ideal for multi-generational living or for use as home offices.

Balconied units at Jigsaw feature large balconies, both in width and depth, creating an "open-air" extension of your home.

However, we recognise that balconies are not for everyone.

Splurge for stunning views, or opt for value on lower floors

— with 10 storeys, Jigsaw offers something for everyone. Every floor features great unit layouts.

#### /ı Every unit is a corner unit

Double-glazed glass for reduced heat and better

- /2 sound insulation
- /3 25-metre saltwater pool
- /4 Five lifts for just 117 condos
- Two lift lobbies with pocket gardens
- /6 Resort-like ground floor with luxurious facilities
- /7 Large balcony
- /8 Architecture by Konzepte Asia from Kuala Lumpur







# The Debating Aces: Insights From Two Winning Teams

From Nerve-Wracking Moments To Triumphs - What It Takes To Be Champs

ock Seng Lee (HSL) took pride in sponsoring various events, including the successful trip of Unimas students to Indonesia. HSL believed this sponsorship would help supplement the needs, whether for food, accommodations, or other expenses.

> HSL once again made an impactful contribution to society by sponsoring the 19th Swinburne Sarawak Inter-School Debating Championship (SSIDC).

Recently, the championship held at Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak Campus crowned St Joseph's Private School (SJPS) as the Senior Champion and Kolej Yayasan Saad (KYS) as the Junior Champion.

In the Senior Category, SJPS triumphed over SM Lodge with a 7-2 split decision while in Junior Category, KYS representatives, Jood Ammar bin Sazzli Shahlan, Zara Aleesya binti Abdul Haizal and Badrul Ariff bin Badrul Akmal took the champion title.

The teams debated the motion "This House Supports Al Romantic Relationships". Form three student Glenys Wong joined her senior teammates, Michelle Ting Chiong Sung and Rachael Chai Xin

Ru, competing in the Swinburne Sarawak debate tournament.

The Swinburne Debaters' Club, which organised the Swinburne Sarawak Inter-School Debating Championship annually was among the oldest of Swinburne's student clubs.

Winning a debate competition was no small feat, but for the champions from KYS and SJPS, it was the culmination of months of hard work, teamwork, and strategy.

In this interview, we delved into their journey to victory, exploring their preparation, challenges, and proudest moments.







PREPEXITY: The junior team, focused and ed, stands united for the final round



We started by introducing the debaters. From KYS, Jood, Zara and Badrul represented their

school in the Swinburne Debate Championship. "It feels like all our hard work paid off," Badrul shared, reflecting on

Similarly, Wong, Ting, and Chai from SJPS were thrilled with their win. Ting described it as "incredibly rewarding," especially since it was her and Chai's final year at school.



Both teams experienced competition. For the KYS

team, the semi-finals were the most intense part. "The semifinals were more nerve-wracking than the finals," Zara said, describing the pressure of being so close to the final stage.

SJPS's Ting recalled how the first speakers' exchanges were particularly intense, as they set the tone for the rest of the debate. Chai added that her favourite moments were during Points of Information (POIs), where the fast-paced back-andforth brought out the best in her.



Preparation was key to any debate victory, and both teams had unique approaches. For KYS,

teamwork and dividing responsibilities were essential. Zara explained how they divided the research tasks based on the given topics. "Doing it together was the best way."

SJPS, on the other hand, practised through mock debates with other schools using online platforms. Ting emphasised that while they didn't follow a strict strategy, constant practice was their secret weapon. "We tested different dynamics and topics to prepare ourselves," Ting shared.

LIVING MOMENTS

#### **OVERCOMING CHALLENGES**

No victory came without its challenges. For KYS, some topics were more difficult to grasp. Zara

highlighted the quarter-finals motion on Malaysia's sports scene as one of the hardest. However, with her teammates' help, she overcame the initial difficulties.

Similarly, SJPS's Ting found economics-related topics challenging due to her limited knowledge in the subject, but the team's persistence saw them through.



their success to teamwork "The teamwork was really

something to emphasise," Badrul said, explaining that each member's contribution was vital to their victory.

Wong from SJPS agreed, adding, "Our teamwork was the main part of winning the championship." Even during moments of doubt, the support from teammates kept the teams focused and motivated. Chai from SJPS felt that trust in her teammates was the most important lesson she learned



#### **PROUDEST MOMENTS**

Every competition was leave a lasting impact. For Badrul, it was the

personal improvement he saw in his debating skills from his last competition to this one. Jood's proudest moment was being announced as semi-finalists. "I was jumping in joy," he said, recalling the excitement.

As for SJPS, overcoming stage fright was a major accomplishment. Wong reflected on her first experience speaking in front of a large audience, while Ting was proud of overcoming her self-doubt to deliver a strong speech.



When asked what the key to their success was, both teams

emphasised the balance between research, delivery, and teamwork. KYS highlighted how their teamwork allowed them to stay organised and focused.

SJPS noted the importance of delivery. "One of the biggest parts of debating was presenting a case convincingly," Chai said, underscoring how effective delivery can sway both judges and the audience.







**DISSECTATION:** Debaters engaging in a careful analysis of the revealed topic, unravelling its complexities with every argument.

ONE, TWO, THREE, GO: Debaters dedicating every minute to research and analysing the motion.

NERVOUS: The semi-finals more nervewracking than the finals.





Looking back, both teams shared valuable lessons for future debaters. Badrul wished

his team had been more confident and better prepared on certain topics.

Ting expressed a similar sentiment, saying she would have focused more on economics-related topics. However, both agreed that persistence and learning from losses were key to their growth. As Wong from SJPS said, "With every setback, the arrow flies further."



Debating didn't stop after one victory. Both teams had high hopes for their future

in debating. Badrul and Jood from KYS plan to represent Malaysia at the World Schools Debating Championship (WSDC), with Jood hoping to become a role model for future juniors.

Ting from SJPS also plans to apply for the national team and coach new debaters after graduation.





Finally, both teams offered advice for aspiring debaters. Zara emphasised the importance of

perseverance, even in the face of losses. "Keep practising, and take every loss as a lesson," she advised.

Chai's advice was to stay confident, no matter how tough the competition may seem. "No team is unbeatable," Chai said. Wong added that debaters should never be discouraged by constructive criticism. "Always keep it up, and never give up," she encouraged.





The victories of KYS and SJPS served as inspiring examples of what dedication, teamwork, and preparation can achieve in the world of debating.

Both teams had shown that success in debating was not just about winning-it was about learning, growing, and pushing through challenges together.

Their stories were a testament to the power of persistence and the importance of staying motivated, no matter the outcome. As Chai from SJPS wisely said, "Train as hard as you can, and focus on learning and improving with each debate."





**CHRISTINA YIN** 

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HIS competition is specifically designed for secondary school students, and it is divided into two categories: lower and upper secondary students.

The event is open to all secondary school students, offering a platform for young minds to showcase their talents and grow.

As an annual event, it proudly stands as the largest tournament in Borneo.

The competition aims to engage secondary school students from a wide range of countries and regions, including Brunei, Kalimantan, Sabah, West Malaysia, and the Philippines.

Remarkably, during the COVID-19 pandemic, when the competition went online participants even joined from Kazakhstan.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting debates online presented significant challenges, particularly in detecting plagiarism or cheating.

Additionally, unstable internet connections in some regions could disrupt the competition's flow.

In addition to this, the club organises the university's annual Novice Debating Championship and Public Speaking Challenge, encouraging Swinburne students to break out of their shells and to practise and hone their oratory and critical thinking skills.

Members of the debaters' club had represented the university at national and international debating tournaments, but its greatest achievement is organising the SSIDC for 19 years, never once faltering, even during the pandemic when the tournament was held online.

"The competition has greatly contributed to the improvement of students' confidence and communication skills, which are essential for their future success," Swinburne Debaters' Club founder Dr Christina Yin said.

This highlights the importance of such events in the overall development of students.

During the interview, Yin was asked about the biggest achievements or memorable moments from past competitions.

Yin mentioned there were many challenges, some of which she couldn't fully describe, but one she highlighted was observing the students' own improvements.

"It's especially rewarding to watch students with initially poor English skills improve their speaking and thinking abilities through their involvement in the competition.

"Seeing this growth in every participant is our ultimate

"Ensuring a smooth process and preventing interference was time-consuming. However, we gained valuable new experiences," Yin said

Growing over the years, the tournament now sees about 300 students participating each year. The first round features random matching, adding an element of surprise and excitement.

This unique structure provides an excellent opportunity for students to learn, improve, and refine their debating skills in a dynamic and supportive environment.

# Jurors For AIR Architectural Competition Unveiled

A Seven-Member Panel Including Eminent Architects And A Young, Progressive Gold Medalist

alaysian Architect's
Institute (PAM) and Hock
Seng Lee (HSL) unveiled
the AIR architectural
competition's panel of jurors.

There were seven professionals from across Malaysia including the esteemed PAM Gold Medalist Dato Ar Hajeedar Abdul Majid and Ar Tan Bee Eu, one of the youngest PAM multi-award winners.

Notable Green Building Index specialist Ar David Ong and two HSL directors, Tony Yu and Yu Ji, were also on the panel.

The AIR competition, which was the second PAM x HSL collaboration, was announced on Saturday (note-to-ed: June 8), with registrations open today (note-to-ed: June 10). The national competition aimed to find the best master plan for a 13acre land between Kuching International Airport and established developments.

The panel judged in two stages.

The first was an anonymous round in October at HSL Towerr, where jurors selecting a shortlist. In November, the shortlisted architects presented to the panel at PAM HQ in Kuala Lumpur.

In the competition brief, PAM x HSL stated the jury evaluated entries based on Planning Concept and Ideas (with a score of 50%), Design Innovation (30%) and Sustainability (20%).



AR ADRIANTA AZIZ
PAM President and Jury Chair

Sitting PAM President and jury chair for this competition,
Adrianta Aziz is a Partner at AR RAD Architects and
ARN Consulting Sdn Bhd.
He graduated from Oxford
Brookes, UK, in Architecture and Urban Design in 1999 and has led projects for organisations like Perbadanan PutraJaya and Permodalan
Nasional Berhad.

A PSMB Certified Trainer, he has mentored over 300 young architects through programs like BeAr and LAP.

He was PAM Education Committee Chairman (2020-2021) and ARCASIA representative, and actively conducts seminars and public talks. He also hosts "Project Laman Urban," a TV program on placemaking.



AR DAVID ONG

PAM Sarawak Chapter

Past Chairman

David, an honours graduate from the University of New South Wales, has over 20 years of architectural expertise in Sarawak.



DATO AR HAJEEDAR ABDUL MAJID

PAM Gold Medalist 2012

Born in Kuala Lumpur, Hajeedar Abdul Majid is an esteemed architect specialising in Urban Studies and Conservation, graduating from Portsmouth Polytechnic, UK, in 1972.

Founder of Hajeedar and Associates, he has held significant roles, including PAM President, DBKL Advisory Board Member, and ICOMOS Malaysia President.

Honoured with multiple awards, including a PAM Gold Medal in 2012, his projects span over 100 notable buildings.

Active in professional practice, he engages in seminars, writing, and producing historic architectural posters.



A former PAM-Sarawak Chapter Chairman and PAM Council Member, he is a pioneer in Green Building Design. He has led major sustainability projects like SP Setia HQ and Sunway Integrated Resort City, actively shaping Malaysia's green development agenda.



AR TAN BEE EU

Multi PAM Gold Award Winner

Renowned architect Bee Eu Tan, founder of BETA (BEu Tan Architect), is celebrated for her exceptional heritage restoration projects in Penang and beyond.

Her accolades include multiple gold awards at PAM and REKA Awards for transformative works like the Kedah Digital Library.

With a diverse portfolio spanning Maldives, Dubai, and Shanghai, she champions honest architecture and adaptive reuse, breathing new life into old buildings. Beyond her design prowess, she shares her vision through education at Universiti Sains Malaysia and organising Pechakucha Penang.

Recognised as one of Tatler Asia's Most Influential, Tan continues to shape the architectural landscape with her innovative approach.



AR CHAILONG SEN

Eminent Architect in Sarawak

As the founder of Jurubina Unireka, responsible for some of Sarawak's most high-impact projects, Chai Long Sen leads a forward-thinking practice.

Chai's firm is a leading designer of Green Building Index certified buildings in Sarawak, including HSL Tower, Menara Sarawak Energy.

Jurubina is also one of the master planners for La Promenade and Saradise — Sarawak's premium addresses for residential and commercial developments.

One of Chai's most recent highprofile completions is a beautiful and significantly large addition to Swinburne University of Technology Sarawak.



TONY YU

Hock Seng Lee Bhd
Executive Director

Tony Yu, an executive director, oversees project execution and coordinates all site operations, encompassing land-based machinery, marine fleet operations, labour deployment, and quality

Armed with a bachelor's degree in business administration with a major in Marketing from Edith Cowan University, Western Australia, he boasts nearly 20 years of experience in the construction industry, spanning heavy machinery operation, mechanics, and marine engineering.

Tony is also renowned for his passion for nature, evident through his successful landscaping subsidiary under the HSL Group, and his active support of the Sarawak Bonsai Association.



Hock Seng Lee Realty
Director

Yu Ji, a director at HSL, brings a unique background to the family business: Prior to joining, he honed his skills as a reporter, first with The Borneo Post for five years, then with The Star for six.

Committed to professionalism and design innovation, Yu plays a key role in HSL's new developments.

Notably, he was on the panel of jurors for the Langit architecture competition in 2021, a pioneering event in East Malaysia with 112 international entries.

This competition paved the way for Langit Citadines Kuching, a collaboration with Singapore's Ascott Group, inspired by one of the winning designs. Results were expected towards the year end, with prizes totalling RM245.000.

HSL intended to turn one of the winning entries into reality, just like the Langit high-rise competition in 2021, which will be built later this year.

For more info, visit airkch.com, hsl.com.my or search #airkch on social media.



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# The Herald Before **Living Moments**

Throwback To HSL's Original Newsletter

very issue of Living Moments, we end with a throwback to Hock Seng Lee's original newsletter. The Herald began in 1996 and was for in-house circulation.

Edited by Sonja Gan, the then HSL corporate affairs director, the newsletter is a treasure throve of memories and milestones.

This edition's #throwback is to the ninth issue, published in November/December 1997. These articles bring back sweet memories.



#### Your Newsletter

With the year almost at an end, it's time to reflect on days past: the achievements of a busy year. It's also time to look ahead to the Year of the Tiger -a year sure to be full of challenges.

This HH we take a positive view of the economic downturn and explain why HSC expects to emerge stronger than ever.

We don't often hear much from our ship fabrication company. Huten Marine. but this issue they have a special event - the launch of King Kang No.1. a tugboa

Join in our fun Christmas competition and see whether you can identify the cherubic faces of our Directors in their youth.

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year We will be back in 1998 Annual Dinner



#### NOTICEBOARD

We need you ...

HH wants you ions! You don't contributions! You don't need to write well (we are here to help). You can use any forlite! Impuage. So hate your say Let's hear your stary. Articles and photos can be given to

#### Riding the storm HSL STILL BUSY, BUT IT'S TIME TO TIGHTEN OUR BELTS

"C urrency crisis", "economic woes" - so the media wails. The solution: AN AUSTERITY DRIVE and that means us too.

While the haze we reported on in the last HH has lifted, we are emerging from the darkness with a new, equally insidious form of doom and gloom. It's called an economic downturn. Ravaged by what the PM calls unscrupulous currency traders, it seems the bounce has gone out of the Malaysian economic ball. To use Dr Mahahtir's own words, "We are thirty per cent poorer than we were [a few months ago]."

Well let's take heart, Indonesia's rupiah had skydived to fifty per cent of the value it was in July. Our populous neighbour is facing a debilitating half price sale!

Various Southeast Asian economies have been boasting double-digit growth in certain industries and the western world had begun to sit up and take notice. Only half a year ago international fund managers were flocking to the East to grab their slice of the boom. How quickly sentiment

Global economies are cyclical in nature and if we look optimistically upon downturns, then we can see them as imposing rethinking exercises. Very soon the catch phrases which were bandied around during America's recessionary 80s such as



Demak Laut Industrial Park - Seen are the

Huten Marine's tugboat King Kang No.1 rolls off the slipway helped by Yu Lee 10. Full story page 2. restructuring, downsizing and streamlining will pervade Asian offices. There's no harm in curbing excesses or trimming the fat - the lean, mean corporate machines that will emerge should be

all the better. All HSL staff take note!

SHEET

After all, the once wounded corporate warriors of Wall Street are said to be anticipating bonuses unprecedented in recent years. Manhattan (New York, USA) is ablaze with stories of soaring real estate prices, "conspicuous consumption" of luxury cars, designer clothes and lavish jewelry.
There are reports of back orders for the new sporty Merc wagon and private jets, while one top restaurant which features bottles of wine around the US\$2000 mark says 5000 booking requests are received a day! How this must irk

Yes, we may have been pillaged by the raiders of New York, but it's no time to cry foul about legitimate, albeit crushing, market forces. We're going to be just fine given a bit of a shake up.

Certainly the crisis in the stock market is related to confidence and not fundamentals, but then sentiment has always been the driving force

# Rocks, Roof Tiles and Pavers

Our manufacturing sector staff spent a busy three days recently (one month in preparation) when our concrete and quarry products were on display at Buildex 97 for 3 days, 10 am to 9 n.m.

The building material and property exhibition held at the Civic Centre drew large crowds. Our Augustine Law was captured in a photo

strong interest in our Everpave Paving blocks so expect some attractive driveways popping up in Kuching in the near future.





#### Work together to save costs

Here in our own back yard, Sarawak is expected to escape the worst of the nation's economic slow-down. In stating this recently, Deputy CM and Minister for Finance and Public Utilities Datuk Dr George Chan also announced that the state's infrastructure projects, which after all are stimulating to the economy, are to go ahead as planned. The state government has nced that additional port facilities are being planned.

Executive Chairman of HSL, Dennis Yii is confident that HSL's outlook remains bright. In response to recent questions from the local press he said "None of our projects have been subject to delays and we maintain low gearing," he added.

While Bakun may be on the back burner, MLNG3 and the Pulp and Paper Mills are among many major projects going ahead. Incidentally, HSL has completed and been paid for its two contracts for the Bakun resettlement scheme and was not nticipating a great deal of further involvement in the grandiose dam project. With Demak Laut Industrial Park Phase II still going ahead. HSL is looking at continued growth.

Our turnover and profit may still be something for Mans to smile about, but the Directors have called for all staff to work together to save on costs – to keep sharp, Increasing productivity and efficiency will see HSL ride the current economic storm. Every bit saved counts. There is no denying the sense of unease that has crept over the local tycoons we do business with. Stung by the plunging value of their stocks, they sit licking their wounds and proclaiming an adherence to the government's call for an austerity drive. Payment collections will be an even greater challenge than usual for our Accounts department

And what of the call to not travel overseas for your annual holidays? A quick check of local travel agencies by HH has found that flights to New Zealand and Australia over the Chinese New Year- Hari Raya period are heavily booked. Cancellations? "No," says our agent, "except for tours to Hong Kong where the 'bird flu' scare has made people have second thoughts".

Whatever your plans for the upcoming festive seasons, do make sure you get your batteries charged because in 1998 we are all going to have to work EVEN HARDER to keep HSL No.1!



#### SOCIAL SCENE - Annual Dinner'97 Coming soon



Plenty...Finance & Admin Dept staff help themselves to their own delicious dishes at the recent F&A party.

around the corner and HSL's nuge family will be gathering arewell to 1997 and to welcome 1998. The dinner venue is again) at MBKS Dewan Masyaraka and the time - 6:00 p.m,
Sat. 27 December 1997. All staff
are invited. There will be Karaoke, Lucky Draws, Singing and dance performances as well as Long Service Awards. So get out your best party outfits and get ready for a great time

Once again the new year is

#### **Anchors Away!**

King Kang No.1, a vessel fabricated for a | will be the first tug Taiwanese client was floated on Monday 15 boat the authority December 1997 in a ceremony at our will own.

As well as a delegation of eight officials from Taiwan, a group of office staff including Managing Director Huten's accounts staff were on hand to of Huten Marine witness the exciting event. PA Jennifer Tang Sdn Bhd Mr Yii Chi did the honours as MC with her polished Chinese. The Huten staff who had toiled long Huten had built and hard to make the vessel also gathered at the dock to see the fruits of their labour.

With the red ribbons cut by the lady VIPs, market, this was the striking freshly painted coastal service tug boat decked out with a red banner and colourful flags, glided down the slip way to the cheers of the crowd. The tug will soon serve Kinmen Port Authority near the city of Kaohsiung in southern Taiwan.

Kinmen Port Authority Secretary General, Mr Yang Ting Biau and Navigation Manager Mr Yang Jong Chyang were among those present to witness the launch and expressed



Speaking at the Hau said that while many vessels for the local and the first for

Taiwan. "We are very proud to know that a vessel made here in Kuching will soon be serving the people of Taiwan and we hope that Authority many years of excellent service."

"We hope this is the beginning of an ongoing relationship between our shipyard and clients in Taiwan," he added.

He further noted that it was timely for Huten to be seeking a greater emphasis on export markets given the depreciation of the ringgit. (What's even better is that we will be paid in US dollars.)

unch...King Kang No.1 rests on the slipway at Huten Marine shipyard before the ceremony

Cheng Kung University in Taiwan. praised the technicians of Huten Marine and said that the client was "one hundred

shipvard were not as modern as those in pleasing and exactly to specification.

Huten Marine was awarded the contract to build the 27.5 metre long vessel by Pan Universe Ent. Inc. in July 1996.

The coastal service tug has a stowing capacity of 15 tons and will mainly b towing and berthing cargo ships, although vessel towing as well as acting as an emergency rescue vessel with Professor Fan Ming Chung of National extinguishing capabilities.



used to work in a computer store and ing power supply. The service sentative was having a bit of trouble noing this guy that he had a

Service Rep: Sir, something has burne within your power supply.
Customer: I bet that there is some command that I can put into the AUTOEXEC.BAT file that will fix it. Service Rep: There is nothing that oftware can do to help you with this. Customer: I know that there is something can put in... some command... maybe it should go into the CONFIG.SYS. [After a we minutes of going round and round] service Rep: Okay, I am not supposed to ell anyone this but there is a hidden command in some versions of DOS that a can use. I want you to edit your UTOEXEC.BAT and add the last line a :\DOS\NOSMOKE and reboot your puter. [Customer does this] computer. (Customer does this)
Customer: It is still smoking.
Service Rep: I guess you'll need to call
Microsoft and ask them for a patch for th
NOSMOKE.EXE. [The customer then
hung up. We thought that we had heard
the last of this guy. But NO; he calls back

Service Rep: How's your computer Customer: I called Microsoft and they aid that my power supply is incompatil with their NOSMOKE.EXE and that I need to get a new one. I was wondering when I can have that done and how much it will cost....

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LA PROMENADE MALL

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Daily 9:30am - 9:30pm

Mon-Fri 8:30am - 5:30pm Sat 8:30am - 12:30pm Daily 10am - 5pm +6082 385 055 +6013 836 5566